



Imprint

BfR Consumer Monitor 08|2020

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Introduction

The BfR Consumer Monitor is a major instrument of consumer health protection, providing answers every six months to the question of how the general public perceives topics from the field of consumer health protection on the basis of a representative population survey. Which topics are important in the view of the consumer? Which topics are they familiar with and what do they know less about? And above all – to what extent do differences exist between the public perception and the scientific estimation of health risks?

While the general public was not yet focused on the coronavirus in the first survey in February 2020, it is at the top of the list of the most frequently mentioned health risks for consumers in this year's second survey. Next, though notably less frequently mentioned, are the topics unhealthy/wrong diet and climate/environmental pollution. Both topics were already classified as

relevant by consumers at the beginning of the year. Despite the general high level of concern about the coronavirus, only a third of respondents have heard of coronaviruses on food. Correspondingly, few people (12 percent) are concerned about this. It is unlikely that the coronavirus is transmitted via food. Nevertheless, the general rules of hygiene for preparing food should always be observed.

If you would like to find out more about the individual topics, you will find links to more detailed information on the BfR website on the last page of this booklet. Furthermore, the BfR-Corona-Monitor is a special series currently being published that specifically addresses the population's perceptions relating to the novel coronavirus.



Which topics do you personally regard as the biggest health risks for consumers?

You can state a maximum of three topics.

Health risks for consumers



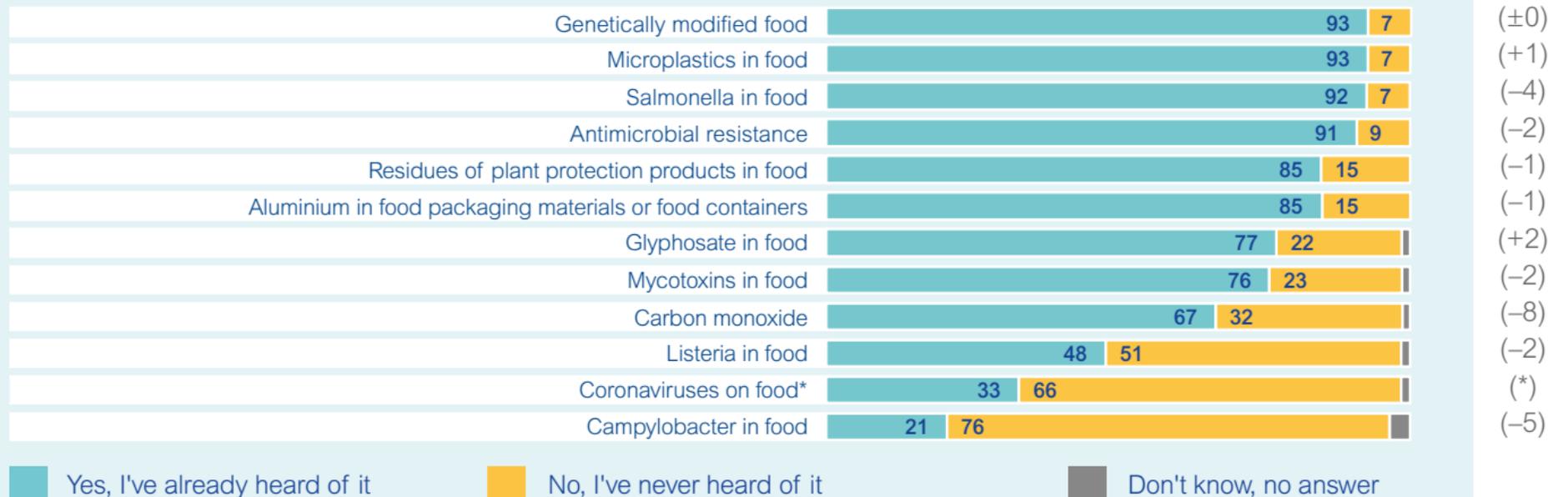
Shown: The ten most common spontaneously mentioned risks
¹ Not among the ten most frequently mentioned risks in 02/2020

Basis: 1,019; Figures given in percentages
 (compared to 02/2020: percentage points)

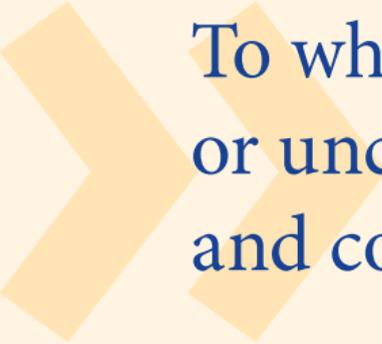


Have you already heard about the following health and consumer topics or have you never heard of them?

Awareness of health and consumer topics



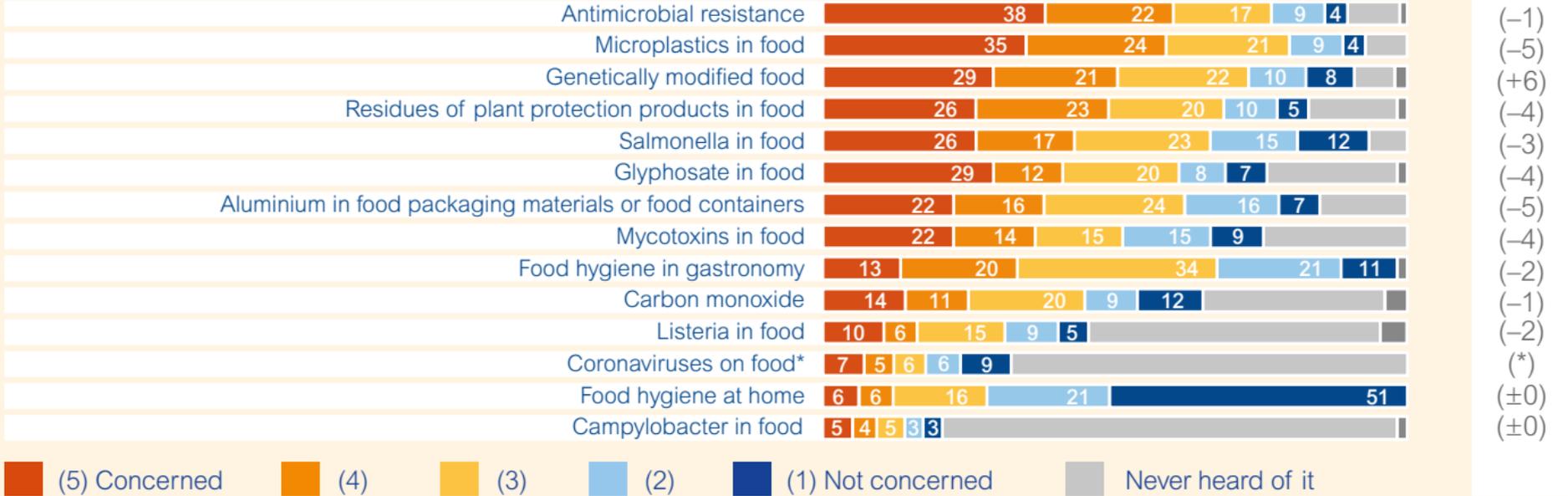
Basis: 1,019; Figures given in percentages (compared to 02/2020 refers to "already heard of it": percentage points); * First queried in 08/2020



To what extent are you personally concerned or unconcerned about the following health and consumer topics?

Please use a scale of 1 to 5 for your answer, with 1 representing “not concerned” and 5 representing “concerned”. You can graduate your opinion with the values in between.

Concern about health and consumer topics



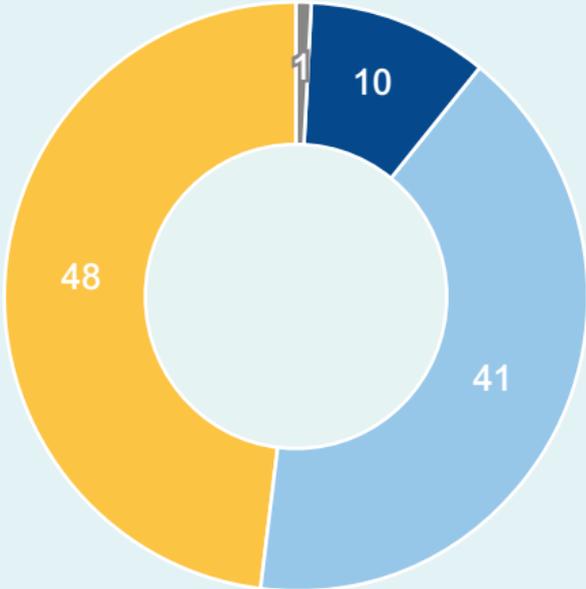
Don't know, no answer

Basis: 1,019; Figures given in percentages (compared to 02/2020 the percentage for "concerned"/4 + 5 on the scale: percentage points); * First queried in 08/2020



Which of the following three statements on consumer health protection would you tend to agree with most?

Consumer health protection



- I assume that I can **assess health risks by myself** and do not need **any state institutions** for this.
- The state should provide **scientifically validated information** on the basis of which I can protect myself against health risks.
- The state should take **more concrete measures** such as bans and restrictions to protect me as a consumer from health risks.
- Don't know, no answer

Compared to 02/2020

(-1)
(+5)
(-3)
(-1)

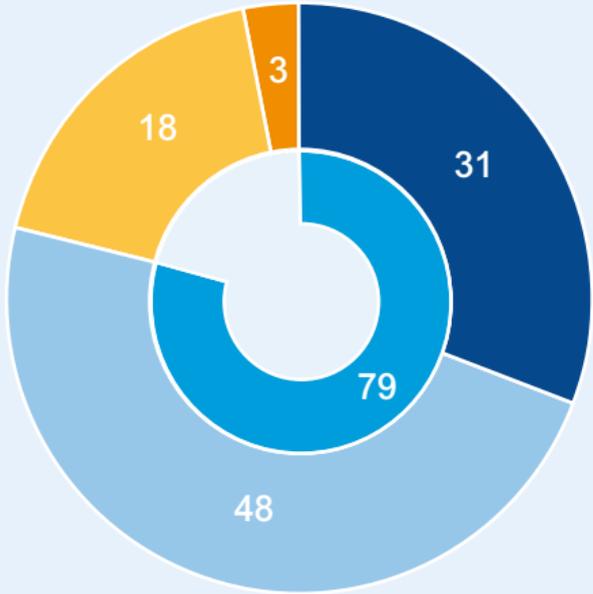
Basis: 1,019; Figures given in percentages (compared to 02/2020: percentage points)



How do you estimate in general the safety of foods you can buy in Germany?

Would you say the foods are ...

Safety of foods offered for sale in Germany



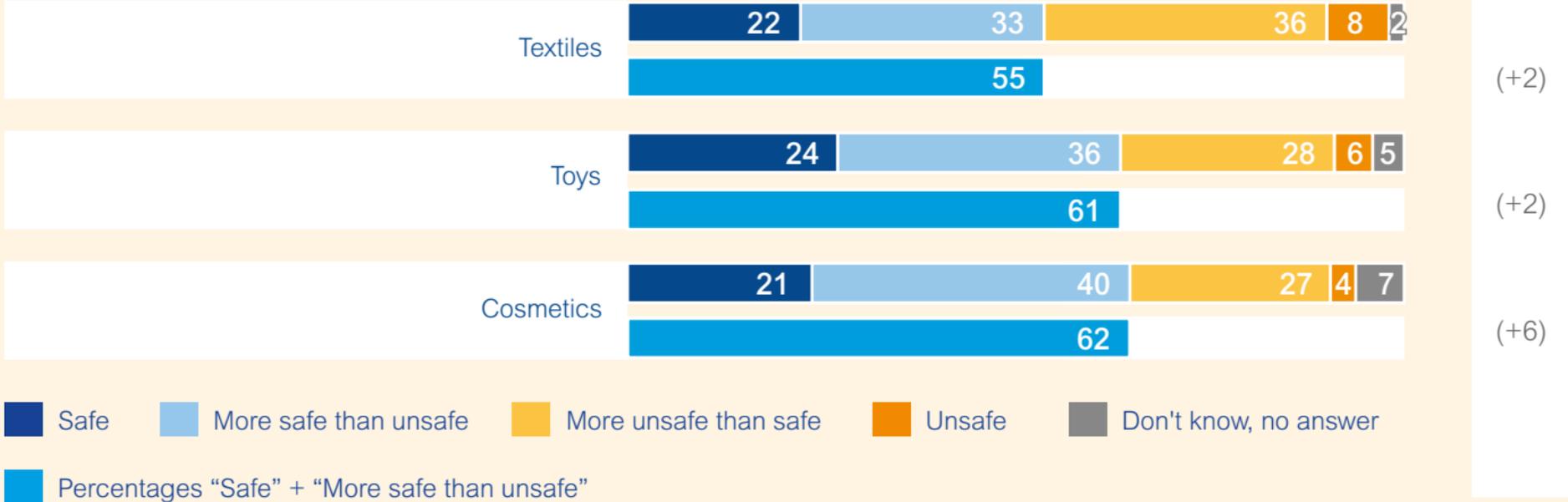
	Compared to 02/2020
Safe	(+3)
More safe than unsafe	(-3)
More unsafe than safe	(+1)
Unsafe	(+1)
Don't know, no answer	(-1)
Percentages "Safe" + "More safe than unsafe"	(±0)

Basis: 1,019; Figures given in percentages (compared to 02/2020: percentage points)



And how do you estimate in general the safety of the following products which you can buy in Germany?

Safety of products offered for sale in Germany

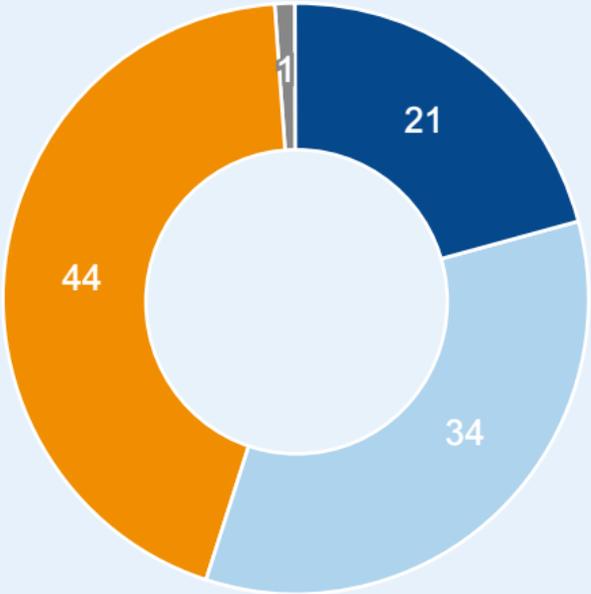


Basis: 1,019; Figures given in percentages (compared to 02/2020: percentage points)



Is the **quality** of our food tending to increase, decrease or stay the same, in your opinion?

Change in food quality



Tending to increase
Tending to stay the same
Tending to decrease
Don't know, no answer

Compared to 02/2020

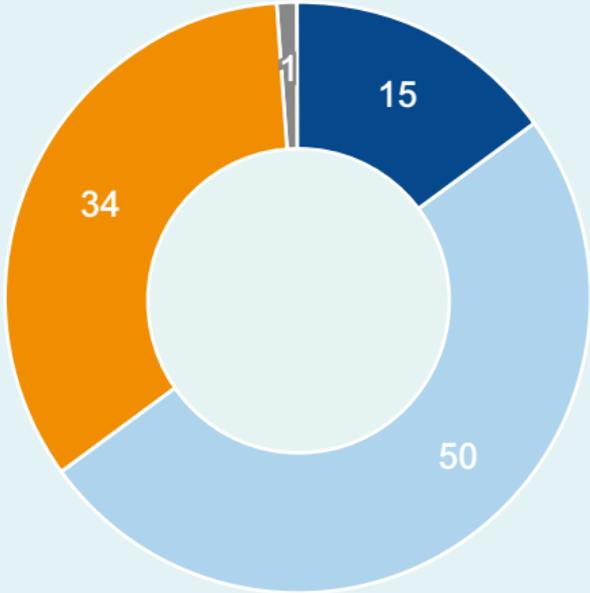
(+6)
(-4)
(-1)
(-1)

Basis: 1,019; Figures given in percentages (compared to 02/2020: percentage points)



Is the **safety** of our food tending to increase, decrease or stay the same, in your opinion?

Change in food safety



Tending to increase
Tending to stay the same
Tending to decrease
Don't know, no answer

Compared to 02/2020

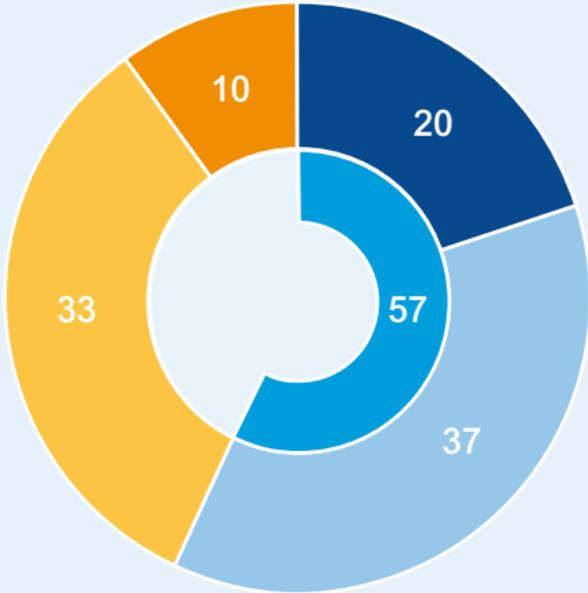
(-6)
(+4)
(+3)
(-1)

Basis: 1,019; Figures given in percentages (compared to 02/2020: percentage points)



To what extent do you trust that state authorities
in Germany protect the health of consumers?

Trust in state authorities to protect health



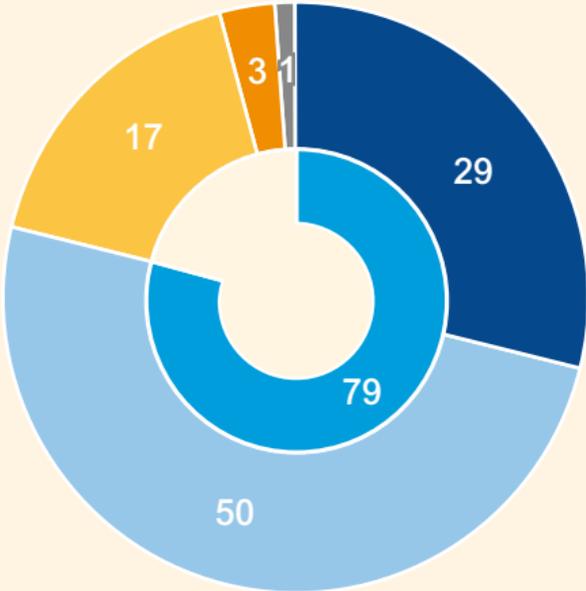
	Compared to 02/2020
I trust them	(±0)
I tend to trust them	(+3)
I tend to distrust them	(-5)
I don't trust them	(+3)
Don't know, no answer	(-1)
Percentages "I trust them" + "I tend to trust them"	(+3)

Basis: 1,019; Figures given in percentages (compared to 02/2020: percentage points)



How interested are you in consumer health topics?

Interest in consumer health topics



	Compared to 02/2020
I am very interested in them	(-1)
I am quite interested in them	(+2)
I am less interested in them	(-1)
I am not at all interested in them	(±0)
Don't know, no answer	(±0)
Percentages "I am very interested in them" + "I am quite interested in them"	(+1)

Basis: 1,019; Figures given in percentages (compared to 02/2020: percentage points)

How were the data collected?

Date of the survey:	10 to 21 August 2020
Random sample:	1,019
Presentation of results:	All figures in percent, rounding differences possible
Population:	German-speaking population aged 14 years and over in private households in the Federal Republic of Germany
Sampling:	Samples drawn at random from land line and mobile telephone numbers which can also include telephone numbers not listed in directories (in line with standards set by the Association of German Market Research Institutes – ADM)
Data weighting:	Data was weighted according to gender, education, age, employment, size of city and German federal state to guarantee representativeness
Method:	Telephone interview (CATI omnibus survey, Dual Frame)
Conducted by:	Kantar
Previous study:	BfR Consumer Monitor 02 2020

About the BfR

Do nanoparticles promote the occurrence of allergies? Does apple juice contain too much aluminium? The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment, or BfR for short, is responsible for answering questions on all aspects of the health assessment of foods and feeds, consumer products and chemicals. Through its work, it makes a decisive contribution towards ensuring that food, products and the use of chemicals have become safer in Germany. The Institute's main tasks comprise the assessment of existing health risks and identification of new ones, the development of recommendations to limit risks and the transparent communication of this process.

This work results in the scientific advice given to political decision makers. To help with the strategic alignment of its risk communication, the BfR conducts its own research in the field of risk perception. The Institute is independent in its scientific assessments, research and communication. The BfR belongs to the portfolio of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL).

i More information at: www.bfr.bund.de/en

Aluminium in food packagings or food containers:

> **A-Z Index > A > aluminium**

Antimicrobial resistance:

> **A-Z Index > A > antimicrobial resistance**

Campylobacter in food:

> **A-Z Index > C > campylobacter**

Carbon monoxide:

> **A-Z Index > C > carbon monoxide**

Coronaviruses on food:

> **A-Z Index > C > COVID-19/corona**

Food hygiene:

> **A-Z Index > F > food hygiene**

Genetically modified food:

> **A-Z Index > G > genetically modified foods**

Glyphosate in food:

> **A-Z Index > G > glyphosate**

Listeria in food:

> **A-Z Index > L > listeria monocytogenes**

Microplastics in food:

> **A-Z Index > M > microplastic**

Mycotoxins in food:

> **A-Z Index > M > mycotoxins**

Residues of plant protection products in food:

> **A-Z Index > P > plant protection products**

Salmonella in food:

> **A-Z Index > S > salmonella**

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